

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 IO-03 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /025 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7483

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14815

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP OCON OAU XA

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND  
CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS

REF: STATE 302387

1. REFTEL REQUESTS EMB ASSESSMENT (A) OF OAU REACTION  
TO PRESENCE OF SMALL NUMBER US CONGRESSMEN AT MEETING SITE,  
AND (B) WHAT STATUS CONGRESSMEN WOULD HAVE. EMB ASSESSMENT  
(WITHOUT CONTACTING OAU) DIFFICULT TO PLACE IN SUCH  
NARROW FRAMEWORK, SO ASSESSMENT IS GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:

2. MAIN FACTOR IN OAU THINKING WILL BE THAT THIS MEET-  
ING IS LAST-DITCH ATTEMPT BY AFRICANS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS  
TOWARD AN AFRICAN SOLUTION TO ANGOLAN PROBLEM. AS GENERAL  
RULE, OAU HAS RESISTED ACCREDITING OBSERVERS FROM NON-  
AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS WITH OUTSTANDING EXCEPTION NOTABLY  
OF PLO. OUTSIDERS - PARTICULARLY SOVIETS AND AMERICANS --  
WILL NOT THEREFORE BE WELCOME. WE JUDGE THAT, IF ASKED,  
OAU WOULD DECIDE THAT NO RPT NO OUTSIDE OBSERVERS FROM  
BIG POWERS WILL BE ACCREDITED, AND SUCH OBSERVERS WILL  
ALSO NOT BE WELCOME.

3. OAU MEETINGS BRING TO ADDIS LARGE NUMBER OF PRESS AND  
OTHER WOULD-BE "OBSERVERS", WHO ROAM CORRIDORS, VERY FEW  
OF WHOM ARE ACCREDITED IN ANY WAY BY OUA. CONGRESSMEN  
COULD, OF COURSE, JOIN THIS GROUP, BUT WE WOULD NOT SO  
ADVISE THEM BECAUSE OF DEMANDING NATURE OF BEING WITHOUT  
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OFFICIAL RECOGNITION.

4. EMB COULD ALWAYS REQUEST ACCREDITATION OF CONGRESSMEN AS OBSERVERS, BUT BELIEVE REQUEST WOULD BE RESENTED AS PRESSURE PLOY, RECOGNITION WOULD NOT BE GIVEN, AND IT WOULD BE INADVISABLE TO PUT SUCH US OFFICIALS IN POSITION OF BEING REJECTED.

5. IDI AMIN, AS CHAIRMAN, HAS IN PREVIOUS MEETING VIGOROUSLY SOLICITED "OBSERVERS" FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES WITH SIZEABLE BLACK POPULATIONS, INCLUDING TRINIDAD, BARBADOS, BRAZIL. HE ALSO ADVOCATED INVITING BLACK AMERICANS, BUT OTHER OAU ELEMENTS DID NOT FAVOR THAT COURSE, AND INDEED CORE REQUEST FOR ACCREDITATION IN OBSERVER STATUS AT KAMPALA WAS SPECIFICALLY REJECTED. IT IS THEREFORE UNLIKELY THAT CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS AS A GROUP COULD OBTAIN OAU "RECOGNITION" AT UPCOMING CONFERENCES, BUT SUCH A DEMAND WOULD BE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE INTERNAL OAU DEBATE BEFOREHAND. WE ESTIMATE THAT, IN VIEW OF CHALLENGE TO IDI AMIN'S LEADERSHIP WHICH EXPECTED TO COME UP AT CM/SUMMIT AMIN UNLIKELY TO WISH TO CONFRONT ADDITIONAL OPPOSITION ON THIS POINT.

6. EMB IS CONCERNED, IN BROADER CONTEXT, THAT PRESENCE OF US CONGRESSMEN IN ADDIS DURING OAU MEETING WOULD FURTHER STIMULATE DEBATES IN OAU DIRECTED AT THEIR PRESENCE AND DIRECTED AT USG QUITE POSSIBLY TO ADVANTAGE OF SOVIET UNION ASSUMING RUSSIANS STAY AWAY. THERE IS ALSO HIGH PROBABILITY THAT THEIR INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS OF VIEWS, HOWEVER WELL-MEANING, WOULD BE SEIZED ON AND DISTORTED FOR PARTISAN ENDS BY VARIOUS OAU FACTIONS. DENIALS AND CLARIFICATIONS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CATCH UP WITH SUCH DISTORTIONS.

7. IF CONGRESSMEN NEVERTHELESS WISH TO COME TO ADDIS FOR MEETING, STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT EMB BE GIVEN MAXIMUM ADVANCE NOTICE, AND BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE FORMAL REQUEST FOR OAU RECOGNITION OF SOME SORT, RATHER THAN COMING UNANNOUNCED OR IN "PRIVATE" CAPACITY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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